

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W
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R 010630Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0147

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1522

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, WZ

SUBJECT: OAU SYG SCORES US POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: MBABANE 1501

1. IN HOUR-LONG ADDRESS AT AUGUST 28 OPENING OF
SWAZILAND TRADE FAIR IN PRESENCE OF ROYAL REPS,
CABINET, AND SENIOR GOS OFFICIALS, OAU SECRETARY
GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MADE FOLLOWING DEROGATORY
STATEMENT CONCERNING US POLICY ON RACIAL ISSUES IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA: QUOTE THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME SEEMS
TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT THAN EVER BEFORE THAT ITS FRIENDS
WITHIN THE WESTERN WORLD WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND THE
APARTHEID REGIME'S INTERESTS THROUGH THE CREATION OF
FUTURE CRISES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF AFRICA. THE
UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, WEST GERMANY AND
JAPAN STILL REMAIN BEING THE PROMINENT ALLIES OF THE
RACIST SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME. EACH OF THESE GOVERNMENTS
PERIODICALLY ISSUES APPARENT CRITICISMS OF APARTHEID.
BUT THESE CRITICISMS ARE ACTUALLY
PROPAGANDA COVERS CONCEALING THEIR TRUE CONNECTIONS WITH
THE APARTHEID SYSTEM. THEIR MILITARY, FINANCIAL AND
TRADE LINKS WITH THE APARTHEID ESTABLISHMENT HAVE
BEEN GROWING CONTINUALLY. WESTERN POLITICIANS HAVE
FOR LONG BEEN PRAISING THE POLICIES OF THE APARTHEID
REGIME AND BY SO DOING SUPPORTED ACTIVELY THE POLICIES
OF RACIAL OPPRESSION AND ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION. END
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QUTE (FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED PERRY,

AF/S, SEPTEMBER 1.)

2. AFTER CEREMONY CONCLUDED, I APPROACHED HOST MINISTER S.S. NXUMALO TO RECALL HIS PRIVATE STATEMENT OF PREVIOUS EVENING IN WHICH HE SUPPORTED US POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES (PARA 3A REFTL) AND TO EXPRESS REGRET THAT OAU SYG HAD PUBLICLY BERATED USG FOR THAT POLICY. NXUMALO REPLIED, "I KNOW, I KNOW. BUT REMARKS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PEOPLE REFLECT WHATEVER THEY BELIEVE THE CONSENSUS IS." NXUMALO SAID NOTHING TO ME THAT WOULD ASSOCIATE GOS WITH THE SYG'S REMARKS NOR, WITH SYG STANDING WITHIN POSSIBLE EARSHOT, THAT WOULD HAVE DISASSOCIATED GOS FROM THEM. WE PARTED AMICABLY AT END.

3. FOREGOING OAU REMARKS, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME AND IN THIS PLACE, PROMPT THE QUESTION (IF INDEED THERE IS NOT ALREADY DEPARTMENT POLICY IN THIS SPHERE) OF COGNIZANCE, IF ANY, TO BE TAKEN BY USG IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN FUTURE. MINIMUM APPROPRIATE RESPONSE IN FRIENDLY COUNTRY WOULD APPEAR BE TO LET A SENIOR HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL KNOW THAT USG IS LISTENING, EVEN WHEN (AS PROBABLY TRUE IN THIS CASE) OAU TEXT NOT SHOWN TO HOST GOVERNMENT IN ADVANCE. DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF FACTORS, INCLUDING ANTICIPATED PRODUCTIVENESS OF EXERCISE AND ALSO EXTENT TO WHICH USG WISHES DIGNIFY OAU RHETORIC, DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH CONSIDER APPROACHES TO OAU IN ADDIS AND/OR NEW YORK AFTER SELECTED OCCURRENCES.

4. UNLESS OTHERWISE INFORMED, POST WILL TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INCIDENT.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, APARTHEID, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MBABAN01522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760342-0413
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609102/aaaadjmo.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 MBABANE 1501
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU SYG SCORES US POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, WZ, US, XJ, OAU, (ETEKI, WILLIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006